

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in this application. Claim 47 is canceled.

In the office communication mailed 04/20/2006, the Examiner indicated that the amendment to the claims filed on February 03, 2006 has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR §1.121. As noted, Applicants have amended amendment to claims 12 and 17 to include underlining and strike-through, where changes to the claims have taken place. Applicants submit that the amendment is in compliant with 37 CFR §1.121.

Applicants submitted that new claim 43 and corresponding dependent claims 44-46 are supported by the description in Paragraph 66 through 71 in the specification recited as follows:

[0066] According to a specific embodiment, a method for converting a plurality of power lines in at least a building structure into a communication network for a plurality of users can be outlined as follows:

[0067] 1. Coupling an apparatus for communicating between a data source and at least one of a plurality of users through a power line network;

[0068] 2. Allowing at least one of the users to communicate to the data source through one of the plurality of power lines;

[0069] 3. Denying access to at least one of the users from communicating to the data source through one of the plurality of power lines.

[0070] As shown, the present invention provides an easy way of converting a pre-existing building structure including a plurality of powerlines into a virtual powerline network. The method can be implemented using an apparatus such as the one noted above, but can also vary, depending upon the embodiment. These and other details of the present method can be found throughout the present specification and more particularly below.

[0071] Figures 23 and 24 are simplified flow diagrams illustrating methods according to embodiments of the present invention. These diagrams are merely examples, which should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many variations, alternatives, and modifications. As shown, the methods include the method 2300 for converting a plurality of power lines in at least a building structure into a communication network for a plurality of users. The method includes coupling (step 2303) an apparatus for communicating between a data source and at least one of a plurality of users through a power line network. Preferably, coupling occurs by physically connecting input/outputs of the power line apparatus to the powerline wires, which already exist in the building structure. The method includes allowing (step 2305) at least one of the users to communicate to the data source through one of the plurality of power lines. Here, the present powerline apparatus and method can be used. Depending upon the embodiment, the method may include denying (step 2307) access to at least one of the users from communicating to the data source through one of the plurality of power lines. Here, access is denied for a variety of reasons, e.g., time out, incorrect user. Depending upon the embodiment, there can be other variations, modifications, and alternatives.

Accordingly, claims 12-15, 17, and 33-46 are allowable.

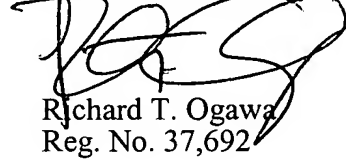
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of 04/20/2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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